AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 3 and amend Claims 1, 7, 11-13, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22-27 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A shock absorber which compensates for thermal expansion, said shock absorber comprising:

a rod guide assembly;

a floating pressure tube forming a compression chamber, said pressure tube slidingly engaging said rod guide assembly;

a piston slidably disposed within said compression chamber;

a piston rod connected to said piston;

a reserve tube disposed around said pressure tube, said reserve tube and said pressure tube defining a fluid reservoir;

a cylinder end assembly disposed between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir for controlling the flow of fluid between said compression chamber and said fluid reservoir, said pressure tube slidingly engaging said cylinder end assembly; and

a first biasing member disposed between said pressure tube and said rod guide assembly for urging said pressure tube axially away from said rod guide assembly;

said floating pressure tube being able to move freely relative to said rod guide assembly and said cylinder end assembly.

2.-4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said piston rod comprises:

a two-piece piston rod connected to said piston, said two-piece piston rod including a shaft and a piston post, said piston post being secured to said piston.

6. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 5, wherein said shaft is made from a first material and said piston post is made from a second material.

7. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said piston post is threaded such that [[is]] it screws onto said shaft.

8. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said piston post is bonded to said shaft.

9. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 6, wherein said piston post is secured to said shaft by a circle-clip.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said first biasing member is at least one Belleville spring.

12. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein a retainer is disposed between said rod guide assembly and said first biasing member.

13. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein a retainer for supporting said first biasing member is disposed between said first biasing member and said pressure tube.

14. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 1, wherein said rod guide assembly further includes a bushing for facilitating movement of said piston rod.

15. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 14, wherein a retainer retains said bushing.

16. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a second biasing member disposed between said pressure tube and said cylinder end assembly for urging said pressure tube away from said cylinder end assembly.

17. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said second biasing member is a Belleville spring.

18. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said Belleville spring is secured to said cylinder end assembly by a circle-clip.

19. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said Belleville spring is secured to said cylinder end assembly by a spring retainer.

20. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 17, wherein said Belleville spring is disposed between two radial retainers secured to the cylinder end assembly.

21. (previously presented) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said cylinder end assembly has two portions, a top portion connected to said pressure tube and a bottom portion connected to said reserve tube, said top portion slidingly engaging said bottom portion.

22. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 21, wherein said second biasing member is disposed between said top portion and said bottom portion.

23. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 16, wherein said second biasing member and one end of said pressure tube are disposed within said cylinder end assembly.

24. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a base plate slidingly engaging said reserve tube adjacent said cylinder end assembly; and

a second biasing member disposed between said base plate and an end of said reserve tube for urging said base plate away from said end of said reserve tube.

25. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said second biasing member is a Belleville spring.

26. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said second biasing member is an elastomeric block.

27. (currently amended) The shock absorber according to Claim 24, wherein said second biasing member is a pressurized gas.